

-----Original Message-----

From: Blair, Darlene

Sent: Tue 6/14/2011 9:26 AM

To: downst@se-polk.k12.ia.us; 'galen.howsare@hawkeyecollege.edu'

(galen.howsare@hawkeyecollege.edu); Nolden.Gentry@brickgentrylaw.com; Stalker, Veronica; 'ewixted@wpntworld.com'; Howsare, Galen (GHowsare@IA-SB.org)

Subject: FW: Letter from Board President Russ Wiesley

-----Original Message-----

From: plmead@windstream.net [mailto:plmead@windstream.net]

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 5:32 AM

To: Kline, Marti

Cc: IA-SB

Subject: Re: Letter from Board President Russ Wiesley

Russ

I find this to be an inadequate explanation for the removal of a board member elected by the member schools. Removal of an elected board member does not compare to the removal of a paid staff member. I feel the association board over stepped their authority with this action.

I have sat on a number of boards over the years and there have sometimes been members who were difficult to deal with in meetings or outside. We might work to see that they were not reelected, but learn to deal with them until that time.

I look at the Association as an extension of the school boards and as such should follow the same guide lines in regard to meetings and the public, while being funded by public money.

Paul Mead

---- ia-sb@ia-sb.org wrote:

> Iowa Association of School Boards

>

> From the desk of Russ Wiesley, Board President

>

> June 6, 2011

>

> Dear Members,

>

>

> This week many of you are wrapping up another school year and, while

> I'm sure the year will include enduring memories of time spent with

> students and teachers, I suspect you also faced challenges along the

> way.

>

> It would be an understatement to say the past 14 months have been  
> challenging for the IASB. While the association has continued its  
> mission to deliver valuable products and services to you and the  
> students you serve, the association itself has been through a series  
> of events that were deeply troubling and eroded the public trust.  
>  
> As president of IASB, my primary responsibility is to make sure the  
> association continues to fulfill its critical mission. The deeply  
> disappointing events of the past year have distracted the public from  
> seeing the great value provided to the membership. In addition, our  
> communication regarding the actions taken as a board, and mine as its  
> leader, have been inadequate.  
>  
> These events occurred on my watch as president of the Board. It is my  
> responsibility to provide better oversight and to more effectively  
> communicate our actions and decisions to you. I am sorry that I have  
> not done a better job in both those areas.  
>  
> With this in mind, I feel it is important to share some additional  
> information regarding a recent Board action. On May 12 the Board,  
> under my direction, took the highly unusual step of removing an IASB  
> officer. Over several months we had tried diligently to resolve  
> specific issues and areas of conflict in hopes of avoiding this  
> outcome. I assure you the action was not taken lightly.  
>  
> There is no question the timing was poor and the action itself looks  
> bad because the Board's reasons for removing the officer were not  
> publicly stated out of courtesy for that person. Those of you who have  
> experienced employee terminations will understand that decision. The  
> question for the Board to resolve was - should we do the right thing  
> even if it were the wrong time? Eleven members of the Board believed  
> the answer to that was "yes." Our focus was - and is - moving IASB  
> forward to better meet member needs. What I can tell you is that all  
> board members have a responsibility to the full IASB membership.  
>  
> As the end of a school year closes one chapter, the page now turns for  
> the next. That is also the case for IASB.  
>  
> Starting this week, our new Executive Director Tom Downs will travel  
> the state to share his new vision for the organization.  
> It's a vision that will provide greater member value and greater  
> organizational transparency. Tom will be joined by IASB's new Chief  
> Financial Officer, Galen Howsare. Tom and Galen will also share their  
> vision and commitment to implementing a new financial discipline and  
> accountability throughout the association.  
>  
> All of us who devote our time and our energy to education, either as a  
> staff member or an unpaid volunteer, have one thing in common; the  
> desire to build a better future for our young people.  
> I know Tom and Galen share this same passion, which is why the Board  
> and I heartily endorse this new thinking and this fresh start.

>  
>  
> Click [HERE](#) for District Meeting dates, times and locations. I urge you  
> to attend your district meeting and see how the IASB is responding to  
> your needs and the challenging conditions that lie ahead. You may  
> register right up to the day of each meeting.  
>  
> As you wrap up the 2010/2011 school year, please know that the IASB  
> staff, leadership and Board are 100 percent committed to helping you  
> help your students grow and learn in the coming years. We look forward  
> to serving you for many years to come.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Russ Wiesley  
>  
> President  
>  
> Iowa Association of School Boards  
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>  
>

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From: Schmitt Lyle W [mailto:SchmittLyleW@JohnDeere.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 7:31 AM  
To: Kline, Marti; Wiesley, Russ  
Cc: jurrens@siebring.com; sshaw@forestcity.k12.ia.us; roger@shaffercpa.com;  
mike@twinlakesenviro.com; mdezonia@mchsi.com; petersen.leslie@principle.com;  
patti.fields@yahoo.com; Wieseler, Thomas; Hansen, Scott; corbin.joan5@gmail.com;  
jcgreen5@mchsi.com; georgeandliinda@mchsi.com; dgd@goldfieldaccess.net;  
rlvandekieft@cfu.net  
Subject: RE: Letter from Board President Russ Wiesley

Thank you Russ for your letter.

Unfortunately, my personal view is that it falls far short of what is required to re-establish trust in IASB.

I'm glad that you recognize that your oversight and communication as a leader has been inadequate. However, it appears that you don't yet fully comprehend the harm that your decisions and actions ( supported by other board members) have done to the once reputable brand name of IASB.

I have been a very strong supporter of IASB through the years (I have been on the Waterloo School Board for 18 years) because IASB is the only educational organization that I am aware of whose primary focus is on kids. Mismanagement and corruption can creep into any organization when the leaders are not vigilant (as was the case here, under your and Hill's watch) but can still survive when a segment of leaders take bold action to address wrongdoing in a timely, ethical, transparent, responsible way. You chose to do just the opposite; to compound prior transgressions with additional secretive, self-serving, unethical action.

Instead of recognizing that the brand name of IASB was tarnished by greed, dishonesty, secrecy, arrogance, and back room deals during the past few years and that such needed to be countered with truth, transparency, and complete openness; you chose to further damage the brand name of IASB by yet another back-room deal that probably wasn't even legal. You can always find a lawyer to concoct some sort of justification for anything, which is apparently you did by assigning Nolan that unsavory mission.

Bottom line is this: If you really care about kids, if you really care about IASB; you will resign because you are now the poster-child of what-is-wrong-with-IASB. Your total disregard for the reputation of IASB in order to settle a personal disagreement/grudge by using questionable tactics to unseat a duly elected fellow official; arguably did more damage than all the prior transgressions within IASB. It is time to put IASB interests ahead of your own. You made a terribly bad call. Your judgment lacked vision of the big-picture. You now need to show integrity by resigning.

In order for IASB to have a clean start, it would be good for the other eleven other members of the board who voted for the unethical, legally-dubious shenanigan to also resign. I suspect some, especially newer members, had reservations about the proposed action to unseat a duly elected member, but likely had their arms twisted by you; perhaps Nolan gave them full assurance that he, as a genius activist attorney, found authority outside your by-laws to take such dubious action. Nonetheless, every one of the eleven lacked foresight and contributed to further damaging the brand name of IASB, perhaps irreparably, by voting to support yet another awful decision worthy of yet another damaging, but well founded, newspaper headline.

It is entirely appropriate for School Boards to discontinue membership in IASB until current leadership is replaced. Even though you only have a few months left on your term, please resign now for the good of IASB. It will send a message that "IASB finally gets it", and is committed to new leadership that practices transparency and is once again focused on doing the right thing for kids.

I trust there were a lot of good intentions. But the world runs on right answers.

From: ia-sb@ia-sb.org [mailto:ia-sb@ia-sb.org]  
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 4:33 PM  
Subject: Letter from Board President Russ Wiesley  
Click <<http://www.ia-sb.org/EventsTraining.aspx?id=7896>> HERE for District Meeting dates, times and locations. I urge you to attend your district meeting and see how the IASB is responding to your needs and the challenging conditions that lie ahead. You may register right up to the day of each meeting.  
From: Mike McNichols [mailto:MMcnichols@mhcscpa.com]  
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 7:40 PM  
To: Kline, Marti  
Subject: Re: Letter from Board President Russ Wiesley

Do you believe that this type of vague and non-specific communication adds value? What we as members wish to see are apologies from the board and resignations by executive board members so that others may take their place. At our board meeting I was pleased with the openness and direction promised by that ousted board member. What I took away from her termination (by fellow board members and not her district) was that nothing has really changed at IASB. You can always look at the tone at the top to judge the integrity and quality of an organization. Until I see significant changes of IASB board members, including it's President, I will be cautious with regards to my dealings with IASB.

Michael W. McNichols

Board Vice-President

Bondurant-Farrar Community School District

On Jun 6, 2011, at 5:56 PM, "ia-sb@ia-sb.org" <ia-sb@ia-sb.org> wrote:

<(null)> Iowa Association of School Boards  
<wiesleyruss-signaturetransparent2copy.jpg>

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Please be advised that based on current IRS rules and standards, any advice contained in this message is not to be used, nor can it be used for the avoidance of any tax penalty that the IRS should assess related to this matter. --

From: Todd and Denise Wiley [mailto:tdwiley@fmtcs.com]

Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 5:48 AM

That is a well articulated letter, but I remain unconvinced that IASB is operating in an ethical manner and holding themselves to a high standard. Perhaps the new employees can right the ship. I certainly hope so. Your credibility has been severely damaged. I'm not sure your representation is a good thing at this point.

Todd A. Wiley

President

Vinton Shellsburg

Board of Education

> Click [HERE](#) for District Meeting dates, times and locations. I urge you

Subject: RE: Letter from Board President Russ Wiesley

The Anamosa District would like to know who our representative is and want to talk to them very soon. If we did not have the group insurance with the IASB we would not be renewing our membership possibly. Like it or not we want more answers and communications. As I have stated in the past and now it is coming to a head our membership is being considered by the answers we do or do not get to our questions.

You have had Too much overturn in the past year and with that how can you possibly know where you are and which way the association is going.

Anna Mary Riniker

Anamosa Comm School District.

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From: ia-sb@ia-sb.org [ia-sb@ia-sb.org]

Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 4:32 PM

Subject: Letter from Board President Russ Wiesley

[cid:transparentblackiasblogsmallforsurveys.gif] Iowa Association of School Boards  
Click [HERE](http://www.ia-sb.org/EventsTraining.aspx?id=7896) for District Meeting dates, times and locations. I urge you to attend your district meeting and see how the IASB is responding to your needs and the challenging conditions that lie ahead. You may register right up to the day of each meeting.

[cid:wiesleyruss-signaturetransparent2copy.jpg]